AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 20, of the original application with the following:

Another approach proposed has been to extend the basic pre cut disclosed in USPN 4,719,967 so far into the core reinforcements' side walls that only a narrow web of side wall material left would remain. The webs would be strong enough to keep the reinforcement whole during banding and brazing process, but weak enough, theoretically at least, to automatically break later, during operation of the radiator core, as the core expanded and the reinforcement was stressed. It would cut itself, in effect, eliminating the cost of the sawing or shearing operation. This basic concept was disclosed at least as early as the publication of Japanese application 1-131898 in 1989. A more recent patent, USPN 6,328,098, claims to assist that automatic breaking process by pre bending or scoring the webs to further weaken them. Regardless, such a scheme relies on a level of expansion during radiator operation sufficient to break the reinforcement, and to do it fairly early in the operational life of the ~~evaporator~~ radiator. This is difficult to predict and control, and the header plate to tube joints will inevitably experience some stress before that occurs, unlike the standard methods of completely cutting the reinforcement before the radiator goes into operation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 10, of the original application with the following:

Referring first to Figure 1, an assembled radiator 10 has a brazed core 12, which consists of aluminum tubes 14, intervening fins 16, and header plates 18, and core reinforcements, indicated generally at 20. The header plates ~~16~~ 18 and reinforcements ~~18~~ 20 form a four-sided frame around the stacked tubes 14 and fins 16. The reinforcements ~~18~~ 20 protect the outermost fins 16, both after braze and during the braze process, when the core components are clamped or banded together. Each reinforcement 20 is an elongated

(approximately 800 mm long), channel shaped member with a wider base wall 22 (approximately ~~16~~ 24 mm) and shorter side walls 24 (approximately 16 mm), stamped from an aluminum alloy, such as the alloy commonly known as 3003. The material thickness is approximately 1.5 mm, of which about 2 to 6 percent is comprised of a surface layer of braze material, such as the aluminum-silicon eutectic alloy known as 4045. The braze layer has a melt temperature lower than the base aluminum alloy, and is hot rolled, or plasma sprayed, or otherwise applied onto the base metal as it is formed. While it is necessary to maintain the structural integrity of the reinforcement 20 during the core assembly and brazing process, it is actually desirable to sever it later, at some point along its length, as noted above. Doing so allows the reinforcements 20 to still shield and protect the outermost fins 16, but with all elements of the core rigidly brazed together at their various interfaces, the reinforcements 20 no longer need serve as structurally integral sides of a four sided frame, as they did during the banding and brazing process. Cutting or severing the reinforcements 20 post braze is actually useful, as noted, in preventing the core stresses during later operation that could threaten tube to header joints. The method of the invention allows for that severing with no post braze manufacturing steps or occurrences.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 3, with the follows:

The exact same action can occur with the other embodiments disclosed in Figures 4 and 5, since they have the same basic void shape and orientation during braze. Other base alloys and braze materials could theoretically be used, so long as they had the same relative melting relationship. In the event that that reinforcement member 20 did not have the typical channel shape, with base and side walls, it would be possible to provide just a series of webs and voids sufficient to extend completely across a surface of the member. The channel shape is typical, however, as it is strong and relatively easy to ~~for~~ form. More than one set of slots and webs could be used, if desired, to create more than one point of severance, which would be almost as easy to provide in the reinforcement ahead of time as would one. Additional post braze saw cuts, of course, would each entail equal additional expense.